

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of January on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Ronald Bowman, Thomas Cara, R. Daniel Evans, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Absent was Councilman Brian Connely. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Bowman. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 2, 2018 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Stephanie McCarroll, secretary of the East End Fire Company, stating that David Price Jr. is the fire chief of the East End Fire Company effective January 4, 2018. There was some discussion about the progression order of the fire chiefs. A recommendation was made to appoint Mark Bower as First Assistant Fire Chief, Jason Hartz as Second Assistant Fire Chief and David Price Jr. as Third Assistant Fire Chief. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2018 Street Material bids. He stated that he discussed the issue regarding the 500 tons 2A stone with the PennDOT representative. Manager Steigerwalt recommended that the borough reject the bid for pickup from R.E. Pierson Materials Corporation but award the bid for delivery from R.E. Pierson Materials Corporation. He stated that the borough would create two stockpiles of materials and the borough would purchase limestone through the COSTARS program.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to reject the bid for pickup of 500 Tons 2A Stone from R.E. Pierson Materials Corporation, Middleport, PA in the amount of \$3,750.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to award the bid for delivery of 500 Tons 2A Stone from R.E. Pierson Materials Corporation, Middleport, PA in the amount of \$6,250.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the borough is still picking up Christmas Trees; a preconstruction meeting for the West Broad Street Wabash Tunnel Replacement Project would be held this Thursday at the PennDOT District Office in Allentown; and a list of proposed traffic and parking changes related to the project were provided to councilmembers.

A recommendation was made to accept the traffic and parking changes related to the West Broad Street Wabash Tunnel Replacement Project as specified by PennDOT. President Mace read the proposed detour route as follows:

Truck Detour will be for all trucks over two axles. Normal truck turn-around will be via old 209 through Newkirk and Reevesdale. Last resort turn-around will be at the High School.

Hegarty Ave. will be one way west to east, from Nescopec Street to Berwick Street.

Rowe Street will remain one way east to west.

Nescopec Street will be two way from Broad Street to Hegarty Ave. Parking will be prohibited on the east side of Nescopec St. Borough Employees will remove the parking meters.

Broad St. will be one way east from Nescopec Street to Hunter Street. Parking will be allowed on both sides of Broad Street with all parking facing east.

Hunter Street will be one way south from Broad Street to Spruce Street. New traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of Spruce Street and Hunter Street.

Parking on Berwick Street will remain with the exception of the first space on the west side of Berwick at Broad Street for emergency vehicle travel.

Parking will be prohibited on the south side of Spruce Street from Oak Street to approximately 140 Spruce Street.

Spruce Street will be one way east from Sewer Plant Road to Center Street with two lanes. The right lane will be thru traffic and right turn. The left lane will be for left turn only.

There was some discussion about placing additional signage by the Citizen's Fire Company, providing the public with a simplified map, and posting the detour map on the borough's Facebook and website. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the property at 252 Cottage Avenue was submitted to the county as a demolition project.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

President Mace welcomed Ann Marie Calabrese who is the new Director of Community Development.

Chief Weaver requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 114 Market Street. There was some discussion about this matter. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to deny a handicapped parking space application for 119 Market Street since it would exceed the number of handicapped spaces allowed in that block. There was some discussion about this matter. There was

no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Cara reported that he is working with Street Department Supervisor Matthew Mateyak to identify and compile a list of missing and/or faded street signs and stop signs, and fire hydrants that need painting.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign and awning at 36 East Mauch Chunk Street. There was some discussion about this matter. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for brick veneer at 200-202 East Broad Street pending submission of an application. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, Councilman Cara gave an update on the Center Street Welcome Sign Improvements as follows: Mike Hummel of Alfred Benesch and Company stated that the sign is in the bridge right-of-way; PennDOT placed the sign where it is located now after the bridge project; and contacting PennDOT. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mayor Gerace stated that his first two weeks as Mayor has gone well.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

With no one wishing to address council, the meeting was closed to the floor.

Solicitor Greek reported that the local tax collection law provides that a Tax Collector appoint a Deputy Tax Collector who shall collect and settle taxes during any incapacitation of the Tax Collector. Solicitor Greek reported that he had a resolution that the borough approves the Tamaqua Borough Tax Collector deputizing Diane Malay as the Tamaqua Borough Deputy Tax Collector to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2018-2**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**TAMAQUA BOROUGH DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Solicitor Greek reported that he had a resolution authorizing the local tax collector to charge a \$10.00 fee for providing a tax certification and to charge a \$5.00 fee for providing a duplicate tax bill to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2018-3**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR FEES**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

President Mace asked Solicitor Greek about the Tamaqua Remembers Committee request to rename the section of South Nescopec Street where the memorial will be located. Solicitor Greek stated that renaming the street can be done by ordinance.

A recommendation was made to accept and file the various reports of borough officials. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Chairman Evans of the Street Light Committee stated that the committee members also include President Mace and Councilwoman Linkevich. Chairman Evans stated that he does not have an update at this time. Manager Steigerwalt discussed the following: he reached out to the system design engineer and was advised that they are 75% of the way through reviewing the materials; a site visit is being planned within the next two weeks; and PPL Key Account Manager Harry Devine II is requesting Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) documents.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara stated that a meeting was held with representatives from Barry Isett and Associates.

A recommendation was made to pay all properly approved bills and claims against the borough. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:45 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:30 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters.

A recommendation was made to advertise for bids for the sale of 216 Penn Street with a minimum bid amount of \$1,000.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hire Attorney Jeffrey Stewart of White and Williams LLP to be its labor counsel on all employee and police issues, as needed, including the completion of the public works collective bargaining agreement and that council authorizes David Mace, as president, to execute Attorney Stewart's engagement letter to effectuate this decision. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to extend the probationary period for Officer Jeremy Sborz to September 21, 2018. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

There was some discussion about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Rehabilitation Loan Program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:34 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer